

OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

PROPRIETY OF ALTERING

THE

DIVISION LINE

BETWEEN

UPPER AND LOWER CANADA,

BY A FRIEND TO BOTH,

AND TO THE

GENERAL INTERESTS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE.



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OBSERVATIONS, &C.

TO THE CANADIAN PUBLIC.

IF, in laying before you our observations upon a subject of so much importance, we fail in establishing their general correctness, and the necessity of adopting our proposition, we must be permitted to think our failure imputable, rather to our deficient manner of treating the subject, than to its own want of merit or importance. Aware, that what one may render obscure, another might make perfectly plain and intelligible, and being deeply impressed with a sense of the incalculable importance of the subject, which we now venture to submit to the notice of the public, we have only to regret that it is not in abler hands; a circumstance of which we sincerely trust we may not have long to lament.

We should hope there are but few unconvinced from past experience of the absolute necessity of a revision of the maxima by which have been guided our public transactions, which it should be the desire of all to see founded on the immutable basis of truth, and regulated on the principle of general utility; and should we succeed in rousing from their lethargy, but a few, among the very many more capable than ourselves, to a powerful advocacy of the vital measure now in contemplation, we shall feel a just pride, that we have in so far at least contributed to its final consummation.

In surveying that portion of British America, which is comprehended in the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, it is impossible to contemplate their vast extent of territory, their various resources, as yet so imperfectly explored, their immense susceptibility of cultivation and improvement, the unrivalled facilities which they possess for internal communication, and universal intercourse and commerce with the continent of North America, and the degree in which all these natural advantages are capable of being extended and improved, by human art and industry,—without feeling a sentiment of profound regret that any obstacles should be opposed to their full developement.

Never did nature confer her best blessings on any region, with a more liberal and unsparing hand. Never was a nobler field opened to enterprise and industry, nor a larger prospect of reward to crown their exertions. Never was ampler scope afforded for the wisdom and philanthropy of the Legislator and Statesman, in the noblest sphere in which they can be employed; and it is mortifying to think, where so much has been done by nature, how little, as yet, has been accomplished, nay, how little has been attempted to be done, so far at least as Lower Canada is concerned, to turn her advantages to a proper account, and to fulfil the beneficent intentions which, in the physical constitution of this region of the world, she has, as it were, with her own hand, inscribed in characters legible to the most careless observer.

In comparing the appearance of Lower Canada, with that of the adjacent United States, or even of Upper Canada, countries so much younger, a contrast is presented, which cannot fail to arrest the attention of the most incurious traveller. In passing the boundary line, he might naturally imagine himself transported, on a sudden, into some remote and neglected region of the world—so abrupt is the transition from scenes exhibiting the happiest fruits of industry, intelligence and enterprise, into the midst of comparatively irreclaimed wilds. He might naturally enough conclude, that it was some unfortunate Province, subjected to a barbarous or tyrannical government, which cramped its energies and systematically repressed the spirit of freedom, and its blithe concomitant, the spirit of improvement. Could it enter into his imagination, that, on the contrary, it was placed under the fostering care of the most liberal and enlightened nation of the world, which has expended an immensity of treasure for its defence and improvement; and yet such is the fact.

How comes it then, that Lower Canada appears, (as if it were designed only to indicate, by its absolute immobility, in the universal progress of improvement around it, the comparative degree of advancement, which has been made by the rest of mankind, during the last two centuries,) to remain a solitary corner in this new world, reserved, as it were, to demonstrate, by its utter exclusion of improvement, the striking contrast between the United States of America in the nineteenth, and France in the seventeenth century?

When, from the contemplation of the manifold and mighty resources of a country, so highly favored by nature, and aided by the mighty energies of a great empire, we turn to view its actual condition, the disagreeable surmise is engendered in the mind, that there must have been a greivous failure some where; either in its Legislature, or in the executive govern-

ment, or both—a failure which implies a miserable apathy or a blind infatuation with regard to their own most sacred duties, and the most important interests of the community.

That these evils have their origin, exclusively in one party, it were unfair to presume, and in point of fact, we believe, unwarrantable to affirm. Inhabited as the Lower Province is, by a population consisting of two distinct races, differing in character, and religion; descended from two rival nations; and animated with an ancient, and almost hereditary animosity against each other, it is perhaps little to be wondered at, if, from the very commencement of their connection, there existed a want of cordial sympathy, of mutual confidence, and good will. Where such a spirit exists, occasions will not long be wanting to excite and heighten it. On the part of the majority, the remembrance of their subjugation, and the natural desire and hope of a reunion with France, must have continued to operate, for some time at least after the conquest, in fomenting these feelings, while the pride and arrogance, inseparable from the possession of power, and an assumed consciousness of superiority, on the part of the victors, candor obliges us to admit, may also have contributed, in no small degree, to keep alive those sparks of jealousy and discord, which, otherwise, in the course of time might have gradually expired.

No device could have been imagined, more effectual to fan the flames of discord, than the composition of the Provincial Legislature and Government. While the House of Assembly, consisting of the Representatives, chosen by, and from the body of the people, were, with rare exceptions, devoted, by the natural sympathy of education, habit, & interest, to the views, if we may not say, prejudices of the French Canadian party. The higher branch of the Legislature, as well as the Executive Council, were composed, in a great measure, of the opposite elements, and, as the administration of the government was either wholly vested in the hands of the latter, or chiefly directed and controlled by their advice and influence, little harmony could be expected to result from the combination of parts so ill-matched.

The Government finding itself almost continually thwarted in its measures, by the House of Assembly, was naturally led to bestow its countenance and its patronage chiefly on that party, from whom it received a uniform support; and it may be feared, that, in many instances, it did not treat with due forbearance or lenity, those prejudices which, though unreasonable, and certainly injurious, were not unnatural, and would at least have been more effectually counteracted, had they been managed with more patience, temper, and address.

That, in these circumstances, the people generally should have become distrustful of the Government, and hostile to its measures, was the necessary effect of their situation; destitute, as they were, of the advantages of education, incapable of judging for themselves, and precluded, by their ignorance, from all possibility of surmounting their prejudices, or guarding against the misrepresentations of party. To all this it may be added, that these feelings were not a little embittered and exasperated, by the peculiar temper, language, and demeanor of the inhabitants of British descent, whose national character, whatever may be its merits in other respects, has never been distinguished by those qualities which are fitted to allay prejudice and animosity, to disarm hostility, or to conciliate good will and friendship in minds, prepossessed with distrust or aversion.

As if it had been a point of policy to perpetuate these divisions, and to prevent even the possibility of an ultimate coalescence of these two discordant portions of the population, the only means of effecting a union, of assimilating the character and harmonizing the feelings, sympathies and habits of the two distinct races, namely, the early introduction and establishment of the English law and language, was utterly and unaccountably overlooked and neglected. To these causes we are disposed to trace almost all the difficulties and embarrassments, which have been experienced in the government of Lower Canada.

Under these circumstances, had the appeal which was made to the wisdom and justice of the British government and Legislature been coldly received, or even had it not been met with a noble and generous frankness, and cordiality, however much we might have felt disposed to lament, we could not have visited with any very severe condemnation, the continued existence or even violence of party spirit. But now that the parent country has manifested such a spirit, not only of equity, but of liberal and generous indulgence, and has conceded, with so good a grace, and with such ample pledge of sincerity, even more than was expected, we believe, by the petitioners themselves, we humbly think no room is left to doubt either her intention to redress with all possible promptitude our grievances, or her earnest desire to co-operate with us, in advancing the best interests of the country, to the utmost extent of her power, and almost of our wishes,—we cannot therefore judge it, either reasonable or patriotic, to indulge any longer a spirit of distrust and opposition.

With such dispositions manifested by the parent country, should the same jealous temper still continue to be cherished, it would convict those who indulge it, not only of ingratitude and illiberality, but of insincerity in their past professions of loyalty and patriotism. If, instead of being the

advisers and promoters of useful and enlightened measures, for the advancement of the public good, they shall shew themselves to be the fomenters and abettors of party spirit and faction ; if, instead of seeking to bury in oblivion ancient prejudices and animosities, they shall rake up the embers of strife, and fan the flames of discord : if they shall be found eloquent and zealous in factious declamation, forward and energetic in opposition, when some great question of national improvement is brought before them, or some valuable institution presents its claim to their support, we have too favorable an opinion of the good sense and virtue of the people of Lower Canada, to entertain a doubt that they will spurn from them all such spurious pretensions to patriotism, and withdraw their confidence from those who so palpably abuse it.

It has been common to reply to all the arguments and reproaches of the importunate advocates of public improvement, in language to the following effect. " Let the people of Lower Canada alone. They are very well as they are. Devoid of the restless and insatiable spirit of ambition and avarice, and contented to live in the virtuous simplicity of their forefathers ; why should we wish to break in upon their repose, or to disturb an order of things which, though it may not be favorable to the physical improvement of the country, is so propitious to the virtue and happiness of its population." Now this reasoning must appear to every person whose ideas are raised beyond the alms basket, to be utterly unsound ; false in principle, and of most mischievous tendency. It is indeed, a plea in favor of indolence, ignorance and barbarism. It this were the world's governing maxim, it would not only prove fatal to the advancement of arts and sciences, to all that exalts or embellishes human society, or renders life delightful, but it would prove subversive of all improvement, by destroying the very springs of national industry, virtue and prosperity ; for no nation ever yet rose to any distinguished eminence of power, of glory, or of happiness, to which it was not carried, by the force of a generous ambition and an emulative and strenuous activity, pervading and animating the whole community : " By action, all that is, subsists." It is the law of nature in the material world ; how much more in the moral !

Look at those countries, and view the effect on the great body of the people, who have always acted faithfully on the maxim of treading, undeviatingly, in the footsteps of their forefathers ; the natural consequence has been, that, though they have not perhaps degenerated, either in courage or conduct, from their ancestors of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, other nations have made such advances, during the intervening period, in which they have been altogether stationary, as to leave them at an immeasurable dis-

tance, and to ensure the speedy and utter ruin of their vast and once splendid empires, now as contemptible for their weakness, as abominable for their tyranny and barbarism. In fine, to neglect to develop, by every means which God and nature have put in their power, the resources of their country, or the energies and capabilities of its population, is, taken in a moral point of view, a direliction from the first and most sacred duties of a national Legislature. In the present instance, it is extreme folly and blindness, for the maxim is fraught with mischief and ruin to those who have embraced it, as the rule of their policy. Surrounded as Lower Canada is, with communities, in which the springs of industry and enterprise are wound up to the very highest pitch; in which knowledge and scientific skill are the enlightened directors of public opinion and practical labour, in which universal and ardent competition and emulation are giving the utmost stimulus and power to active exertion, in every department of science, art, and industry—what must be the effect, if the French population of Lower Canada shall continue much longer to slumber, in their present state of apathy? Is it not inevitable, that, if they do not instantly arouse themselves, and shake off the *vis inertia*, which holds them immoveable, while all the world around them is in a career of rapid progress, they must ere long be overwhelmed, as with a deluge, and sink under the vast ascendancy of foreign wealth, and still more of foreign industry, intelligence, and enterprise, which will pour into and spread through the whole country?—What then must be the Lower Canadians but hewers of wood and drawers of water?

Nor let them lay the flattering unction to their souls, that change is distant—that posterity only will be affected by the evils, which we forebode, and that, during their life time at least, all things will continue, as they are. Those, who are observant of the signs of the times, will have remarked the wonderful power and acceleration which have been added, of late years, to the progress of those causes, which are now universally operating in changing the aspect of the world, and, especially, in destroying all that is unsound or unnatural in the constitution of society. How rapidly has the feudal system been giving way in Europe, before the march of mind; and is it to be expected, that, in the new world, and in the immediate vicinity of Upper Canada and the United States, we can remain for any length of time unaffected by the influence of that spirit, which has gone abroad through all the earth?

We contend that it is not only the real interest of the community, but the interest, as well as the duty of its Legislature, to patronise and promote the cause of knowledge and improvement. It is, we are persuaded, the most effectual means of supporting, extending, and perpetuating their own power, reputation, and influence. Let them strive to establish these, on the

basis of an enlightened policy, let them repose their strength and security, on the good sense of the enlightened and intelligent portion of the community, rather than the prejudices of the ignorant. An extreme jealousy of English ascendancy has hitherto kept the French Canadian party firmly united in one body; in one compact phalanx; and this circumstance may, perhaps, have induced their leaders to overrate their personal influence, imputing that to confidence in themselves, and to the harmony and coincidence of opinion and feeling in their party, which was produced rather by a sense of the necessity of union against what they have unfortunately considered their common adversaries, and of overlooking all minor differences, while their great interests seemed to them to be in jeopardy, or at least in suspense.

This compressing force is now we think in a great measure removed; this common and powerful bond of union is now, in a great measure, dissolved, since the concessions of the parent country have scarcely left the name, or the shadow of a feasible grievance, to serve as the watchword of party, or a rallying point for faction.

Events will soon prove, what are the personal weight and influence of those, who have hitherto been leaders; how much of their ascendancy has been owing to themselves, and how much they have been indebted for it to the circumstances of the times. It will at length appear, in what degree they really possess the confidence of their country, or represent the opinions of their constituents; and, without all question, it will soon be decided, how far they are truly deserving of the place which they occupy. In fine it will now be known to all the world, what degree of intelligence, independence, public spirit and political virtue exist among the people of Lower Canada; whether they are worthy of the country from which they are decended, or that by which they have been adopted.

If your Legislators aspire to any thing beyond an ephemeral reputation; a paltry popularity, resting on no better foundation than the prejudices of the ignorant, who are misguided by their influence; if they would build, either their reputation, or their power, on a solid and durable foundation, we are confident that there is only one principle and course of action, which will insure their success, and that is, in good earnest, and in the spirit of a manly and enlightened patriotism, to address themselves to the great work of promoting the real welfare and vital interests of the country, by enlightening and improving the minds of the people, by promoting agriculture and commerce, and conciliating to themselves, while they unite to one another, the different classes of our population by an impartial and comprehensive regard to the interests,, and an equal attention to the feelings of all. By thus no-

bly sacrificing party spirit to the public good, they will obtain the meed of a grateful and unanimous approval, from the wise and the virtuous, not only in this community, but throughout the world, they will transmit their names with honor to future times, and enroll them in the first and fairest pages of their country's history.

Buoyed up with the flattering hope, that the general view we have thus endeavoured to unfold, will be regarded by the more sensible persons to whom it is immediately held forth, in the true spirit of free enquiry, & consequently receive from them a candid & attentive consideration, we have much confidence that they will speedily give the weight of their sanction to the measure, which it is the ultimate and special object of this publication to recommend, and to which, as we humbly think it is based on justice and expediency, we are doubtful if any valid objections can be raised.

It is a measure which, we feel assured, involves deeply the interests of the Canadas, and of the Mother Country, the adoption of which, while it would strengthen and perpetuate the bond of attachment to Great Britain, would draw closer the ties of friendship and brotherhood between these Provinces, by identifying the interests, and assimilating the characters of the population. It is a measure of such obvious and striking utility, we may indeed say, necessity, that a single glance at the map will be sufficient to secure for it the sanction and approval of every candid and unbiassed person.

That part of the Province of Lower Canada, which is situated between the Rivers St. Lawrence and Ottawa, from the point of their junction, at the extremity of the Island of Montreal, as far as the present boundary line of the two Provinces, we contend ought, on every principle of sound policy, and of justice and natural equity, to be surrendered to the Upper Province. This we consider as an act of indispensable justice to Upper Canada, which has great reason to complain of the most unaccountable oversight, which was committed in the original determination of the Boundary Line. It ought in fact to be viewed, as a real restitution to that Province, of a territory, to which she has a natural claim of right, and of which she ought never to have been deprived.

To have brought the territory of the Upper Province to within 50 miles of the head of navigation, and there to have stopped; there to have fixed the line of division, was an error, which one might suppose, could have been committed by none but the blind; and that a minister of such acknowledged sagacity and penetration, as the late Wm. Pitt, should have been guilty of so fatal a blunder, can be imputed only to inadvertency, or

inattention, or to that shameful ignorance, which has so frequently disgraced the Colonial department of the British government : or might it not by possibility be assigned to a worse cause, treachery ? Verily, had it been the object of our policy to insulate Upper Canada, to cut off, or at least to obstruct and impede her communication with the sister Province, and with the mother country, to disintegrate an important part of the British Empire, and to reduce it to the unavoidable necessity of throwing itself into the arms of a great rival power—that object could not have been more effectually attained. It has not only effected a divorce, so to speak, between the two Provinces, which it was our policy to have united in the closest bonds, by facilitating that intercourse between them, for which nature herself has made such ample provision, in the great chain of waters common to both ; but in connection with other causes, whose existence and operation might have easily been foreseen, it has created a source of mutual jealousy and distrust which can only be removed by the adoption of the measure, which we now recommend.

The difficulties which have arisen, between the two provinces, in regard to the collection and division of Port duties, and the loss of time, as well as trouble and expence, which have attended the progress of the negotiation for their adjustment, the little satisfaction which that adjustment has given, at least, to one of the parties, and the consequent discord and collision, which it will necessarily create in time to come, all speak, forcibly, the impolicy of the line of separation, which has been adopted, & call loudly for a revision of this ill advised measure, were it only to preserve peace and harmony between both. The interests of Montreal, the mutual interests of the two provinces, and of the parent country, plead irresistably, in favor of the proposed alteration of the boundery line. To separate Montreal from Upper Canada, was in a manner, to dissever the head from the body, depriving the latter of an easy and mutual access to the great channel of communication with the Mother country.

When practice has demonstrated a profound and pernicious error in politics, a wise government will instantly set about its correction, and happy is it, when the means of its separation are as obvious and easy, as in the present case. With such as are in the habit of tracing effects to their causes, we imagine it will not be very difficult to predict the future consequences, which must infallibly, because naturally follow, a much longer persistence in the very wrong course which was unfortunately adopted in the utter ignorance of ulterior results.

A comparison of the natural resources of the two Provinces will demonstrate to the commonest observer, that the upper, is destined to be the origin

and source of wealth, and the lower its channel. The former is marked as the seat of a dense, active, intelligent, laborious & enterprising population, who will naturally feel disposed to enjoy the fruits of their industry, but which they will not be backward in perceiving they cannot do, unless they are owners of a sea port, at which to collect that portion of their own lawful revenue arising from duties on importation. To remain at the mercy of a sister province for the doling out of such pittance, as in her own ideas of justice may seem good, or to confide her vital interests to the periodical caprice of arbitrators, will not comport with the understanding of a high minded and powerful people. A grievance so intolerable and so degrading, will naturally force their views to other outlets to the Atlantic Ocean. The Hudson joyfully tenders her service; in a mood of indignant irritation it is accepted; Upper Canada becomes an integral portion of the United States, and at once every just anticipation of Great Britain from her North American possessions, receives a sudden and irremediable blight. A reference to Geographical position will give speedy conviction of the practicability of such a movement, and it requires no very deep skill in prophecy to foretell its consequences.

The omnipotent interests of commerce, which have ever swayed the destinies, not only of kingdoms and empires, but of continents, will usurp their dominion over this. Individual men, and little political juntas, in the infancy of population, may project schemes, and imagine boundaries, and set their hearts on the success of the former, and the integrity of the latter; but at last, nature, whose laws are imprescriptible, and ever finally triumphant, will settle all.

To the marginal region of this vast continent, Providence has assigned an immense line of coast, and to its interior, two mighty outlets, the St. Lawrence and the Mississippi. Each will have their particular dependencies, and each will offer advantages peculiar, and irresistibly inviting. The Western States will soon become as alien to the sea board, as are now to each other, the Eastern and Southern States. Part of them are chained by nature to the Mississippi, and part to the St. Lawrence, and all the efforts of man to sever the decreed connection will be unavailing and frustrate. The States and territories which will more immediately be found to be dependent on, and consequently indissolubly bound to the St. Lawrence, are Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and the North West. These will all be as one with Upper Canada. When self-interest prompts, an amalgamation of feeling and sentiment is speedily effected, and such consummation must be greatly accelerated by the almost entire affinity of the population, which is,

and must from the overwhelming tide of emigration, become more and more essentially British.

In the three first named States, will flourish the Vine, the Olive, the Fig, the indigenous and solacing tobacco ; and the glossy product of the silk worm, to which, in addition to their grain, flour and Pork, let but the multitudinous markets of Great Britain be open, through the channel of the St. Lawrence, and an irresistible temptation is offered to a compact, that will be for ages a source of mutual good will, and incalculable wealth and prosperity. Circumstances are edging on apace to this result. The manufacturing cupidity of the Eastern States, has laid the foundation stones of sundry separate governments, while the enlarged and splendid policy of England, is rising like a sun that has caught new fire, to warm and concoct them into life.

Whoever will take a view upon the map, of the position of Upper Canada as connected with the States and territories above named, attentively observe their conjunct rotundity and compactness : the wonderful manner in which the interior of this region is severed by navigable waters, into isthmuses, peninsulas & islands ; thus facilitating a constant & intimate intercourse ; reflect upon the general salubrity of its climate, & the exuberant fertility of its soil, the extent & variety of its productions, susceptible of almost infinite multiplication ; on the nature of its population, congregated as by miracle by gradual but recent emigration from one original spot, and finally, on the all-commanding fact, that nature has opened but one great portal for their universal entry and egress ; must inevitably be struck conclusively, that Providence has designed the whole for one grand unity of purpose.

Who can so observe, and so reflect, and not imbibe conviction of the necessity of a Sea Port to such a region ? Who can inhale such conviction and not feel contempt for the culpable ignorance, or the decrepid policy which severed from it so vital an appendage ? Who that has but the least inkling of political expediency, can be without a wish for its restoration ?— And who that entertains but the simplest ideas of political justice, will not feel indignation if its restoration be withheld. Since necessity, expediency, justice, and sound policy, combine to demand the reclamation of the island of Montreal for the Upper Province, the success of a Petition to the King and Parliament of Great Britain would seem to be placed beyond a doubt.

The prompt success which attended the Petition referred to on our sixth page, is a marked example of the weight of numbers. To that petition were 80,000 signatures. Even expediency and justice are made more resplendent by the halo of universal concurrence. Then up, and be doing. Let a petition to the King and Parliament be immediately prepared, and means adopted to procure the signature of every man in the country. Suc-

cess will crown your efforts, as it ever should the efforts of the alert, the vigorous and the just. On this all-important measure there can be but one opinion in the Upper Province, and with respect to the Lower, it would be libellous to suppose, that with the great majority, a sense of justice would not outweigh every other consideration, since all their petitions for redress of grievances, have, without any exception, been termed "appeals to the wisdom and JUSTICE" of the King and Parliament of Great Britain.—Moreover the whole river St. Lawrence from Montreal to Quebec being a harbor, and every inlet from it a port, by the relinquishing of Montreal to its rightful owners, the Lower Province will suffer no terrifying infringement on its essential public interests, and with respect to those of individuals, such arrangements might be made, as to satisfy the most tenacious, of the entire security of their minutest rights. Upper Canada must have a Port of Entry.

With a view to facilitate our explanation of the justice of our proposition, a friend has furnished us with the following result of some calculations on data drawn from authentic public documents for the year 1830.

	Bushels Wheat.
There were exported from Quebec to Great Britain, } North American Colonies and the West Indies, }	590,081.
Of which were imported from Upper Canada and the } United States, }	252,944.
Leaving as the real export of Lower Canada,	377,137.
	Bbls. of Flour.
Exported from Quebec,	71,284.
Imported from Upper Canada and the United States,	129,593.
58,309 Barrels being retained for the consumption of the Lower Province, which had they been manufactured from Lower Canada Wheat, allowing five bushels to the barrel, would have required 291,545 bushels, which deducting from the amount exported, leaves the real contribution of that Province towards its export, only 45,592 bushels.	
	Barrels of Pork.
Imported from Upper Canada,	10,786.
Do. from the United States,	3,316.
Do. from the U. S. 4222 live hogs, reckoning each of } which equal to one barrel, is }	4,222.
	18,324
Exported to the North American and West India } Colonies, }	11,784.
	6,540.
Retained for consumption in Lower Canada,	
In consequence of cattle arriving into Lower Canada in so many diff-	

ferent directions, the same accuracy, it appears, cannot be attained with respect to Beef. But as it is well known that the Beef contractors for supplying the troops, provide themselves with nearly all from imported cattle, as well as the principal part of the market butchers, it cannot be deemed an overrating, to allow the same quantity of Beef imported into Lower Canada for home consumption, as of Pork,—say 6540 barrels. On this supposition, the account will stand thus :

6,540 Barrels of Pork, a 75s.	£ 20,110 0 0
6,540 Barrels of Beef a 60s.	19,620 0 0

£ 39,730 0 0

Cr By 45,592 bushels of wheat exported, a 5s.

11,398 0 0

Lower Canada Dr. for real necessities of life,

£ 28,332 0 0

This is only as regards Pork and Beef, but it must be considered, that a very large quantity of Butter, Hams, Cheese, Rye, Indian Corn, and many other provisions are imported into Lower Canada, which would, if correctly ascertained, swell this account against her to a very great extent.

The object of our friend in furnishing the above calculations, appears to be, to show, that the Revenue of the Lower Province, is derived from the labors of the Upper, which is entitled like every other country to enjoy the fruits of its own industry. It is indeed an anomalous circumstance, that a Province which does not maintain itself in the prime necessities of life, should be permitted to have the control and appropriation of the revenue of a sister Province, which not only furnishes by her industry an abundance of those necessities for her own consumption, but also provides at least two thirds of their total amount exported from both Provinces. That Upper Canada should longer be deprived of what is so conspicuously her natural right, we think none upon any moral principle, will venture to contend; and we trust we have sufficiently shown, that it cannot be defended on any principle of expediency. A much longer persistence in what is so manifestly and perniciously wrong, may lead to consequences which every British subject would deplore.

Assuredly the Lower Province from its extent and fertility, may look with confidence for an abundant revenue, to the industrious efforts of its own population. Millions upon millions of its acres, are in their original state of nature, which, if subdued to cultivation, would place it far above the desire to encroach on the legitimate revenue of another Province. Some trifling inconveniences may present themselves upon the first view of so important a change, but where there is good will to effect a good object, even diffi-

culties themselves assist to work their own cure, and if the friends of the measure give it their serious consideration, and a hearty helping hand, it is hard to foresee what insurmountable obstacle can obstruct its accomplishment.

Our thoughts on this subject being now before the public, it only remains for us to hope, that our endeavours will be taken as they are meant. Having nothing in view but the general good, so would we have it clearly understood. Being impressed with the belief that the object we have recommended is not only necessary to the prosperity of Upper Canada, but to its future subjection to the Crown of Great Britain; and regarding its secession from its present allegiance as one of the most severe calamities that could befall the Empire, as finally involving that of every other American Colony, whether north or south, we deem that silence would have been criminal. Let us hope that a new era has begun to dawn upon us, and that the policy of Great Britain is carving out both for herself and for us, a bright and long career of prosperity and happiness.